



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN & POLITICAL FINANCE

ONE ASHBURTON PLACE, ROOM 411

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108

(617) 727-8352

(800) 462-OCPF

MARY F. McTIGUE
DIRECTOR

October 15, 1993
AO-93-20

Stuart Glass
29 Isabell Circle
Randolph, MA 02368

RE: Contribution to Candidates Based Upon Completion of
Questionnaire

Dear Mr. Glass:

This letter is in response to your July 19, 1993 letter requesting an advisory opinion regarding your proposal to make various individual contributions to local candidates based upon the completion of a questionnaire you would provide to them.

The facts as you have related them to us by your correspondence and by a subsequent phone conversation with this office's legal counsel, Steve Gordon, are as follows. You wish to notify the candidates for local office in the town of Randolph by press release that you will make a contribution to that campaign provided they fill out a questionnaire that meets with your approval. The candidates that do this will be reviewed and those meeting your approval will receive a contribution from you as an individual. You state that you will only use personal funds, will not solicit any money for this purpose, and will make no other expenditures other than the final contribution.

The campaign finance law allows an individual to contribute up to \$1,000.00 to a candidate in a calendar year. See M.G.L. c.55, s.7. As long as your contributions stay within this limit, your plan would be permissible. The fact that you may first require the candidates to fill out a questionnaire before you consider making the contribution is a matter between you and the candidate and is not a subject regulated by this office. The campaign finance law would not require you to register as a committee provided that you carry out this activity as an individual, do not make any other expenditures to influence a candidate's election, and do not solicit money for this purpose. See M.G.L. c.55, ss.1, 5.

This opinion has been rendered solely on the basis of representations made in your letter and in conversations with this office's legal staff and solely in the context of M.G.L. c.55.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office should you have additional questions about this or any other campaign finance matter.

Very truly yours,

Mary F. McTigue
Mary F. McTigue
Director